

NPIC/TSSG/DED-1223-68
28 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Disposition of the Specific Format Chip Printer and Chip Processor

1. BACKGROUND: Early in 1964, a Chip System presentation was made to the NPIC Staff which included, among other equipment to be developed, a Chip Printer and Chip Processor. This system was to provide, among other advantages, a high resolution contact film chip of target areas for use by the photo analysts. The envisioned system would reduce the requirement for multiple duplicate copies of entire missions by selectively printing only those areas of specific interest to NPIC. Upon approval of the program and allocation of the necessary funding, contracts were awarded to develop a printer and a processor.

2. Under Contract [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] a prototype "Specific Format Chip Printer" was designed and built; while, under Contract [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] a prototype Chip Processor was designed and built as a companion piece of equipment to the Printer. The Printer contract, which was started in June 1964, has had several changes in scope and several overruns, making the total dollars expended [REDACTED]. The Processor contract dated May 1964 was in the amount of [REDACTED].

3. CURRENT STATUS:

a. Fabrication of both pieces of equipment has now been completed by the respective contractors. The Processor has been tested and evaluated twice, first by [REDACTED] and more recently by [REDACTED]. These tests resulted in a recommendation for modifications in the amount of [REDACTED]. The Printer underwent test and evaluation at [REDACTED] and should be completed by the end of May 1968. The resultant test report will contain recommended costly modifications to the Printer.

b. At present there is no known operational requirement for this equipment because of the size (4" X 5") and format of the film chip generated--it was for an earlier system. In view of the current trend toward the Microfiche type of collateral information presentation, a query was made of the respective contractors of the cost to modify the Printer and Processor to a 4" X 6" size output rather than the 4" X 5" as designed. The Printer

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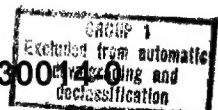
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modification is estimated at [REDACTED] and this is felt to be exorbitant--it would be more logical to build an entirely new printer. The Processor is more reasonable-- [REDACTED] for modifications including the [REDACTED] originally recommended. However, this price does not include film holders and magazines for the new size chip.

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4. CONCLUSIONS: The Chip Printer and Chip Processor, once through T&E, will be of no operational use at NPIC. At present, there is no foreseeable application using the 4" X 5" formatted output either for imagery exploitation or for collateral information. The cost of modification to any different size is prohibitive. It would be more reasonable to build a new printer utilizing the technology we developed under this contract.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. Investigate through [REDACTED] the possibility of this equipment being of use to them in the [REDACTED] system.

b. Investigate, through [REDACTED] the possibility of [REDACTED] using the equipment for experimentation. If neither of the above organizations are interested, it may be advisable to hold the printer in storage and bail it to the manufacturer of the follow-on printer if a chip system does become a reality. The processor in this case would not be required and should be turned over to Logistics for disposal.

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